

BREAKING THE SILENCE

A publication of The Children's Assessment Center, a safe place serving Harris County's sexually abused children.

The mission of The Children's Assessment Center is to provide a professional, compassionate and coordinated approach to the treatment of sexually abused children and their families and to serve as an advocate for all children in our community.

Tete de Cuvee Champagne & Fine Art



Donna Mirkovich and Elaine Stolte enjoy a glass of champagne with Leslie Alexander.

The Children's Assessment Center collaborated with Houston Wine Merchant and Mirkovich Art Gallery to present the 1st Annual Tete de Cuvee Champagne & Fine Art. Tete de Cuvee was established in memory of James Lempert, who was both an avid wine connoisseur as well as an advocate for the welfare of children. This event was a tribute to both Mr. Lempert's life and passions for wine and children.

Tete de Cuvee Champagne & Fine Art was held on November 2, 2006 and graciously hosted by Donna Mirkovich of Mirkovich Art Gallery who worked tirelessly arranging a beautiful setting for the grand affair. Host Scott Spencer, owner of Houston Wine Merchant and grand ring-leader, combined his enthusiasm and expertise to bring everyone together for this fun event!



The evening began with a pop! Spencer enthusiastically premiered 15 premium champagnes for tasting. This was the first time in Houston that so many premier champagnes were available to taste in one place! Master Sommelier, Guy Short, the only Master Sommelier in Texas was on hand to offer his expertise on selecting and sipping of the sparkling vintage. With only 125 Master Sommeliers in the world this was quite a delight for the guests!

While guests sipped on their favorite bubbly they enjoyed the lively Sounds of Pedro & Friends and original art by Nenad Mirkovich, Lidia Dinner, Ginger Cook, David Asickas & Antoine Blanchard. The evening would not have been complete without a few tasty treats to compliment the champagne. Much thanks goes to Jamie Zelko, executive chef of the Lancaster Hotel. She and her staff prepared scrumptious hors d'oeuvres topped off with handmade chocolates that were flying off the table!

Special guests included CAC Board Members, Sylvia Brauer and Christopher DeClaire with wife Laurie. Randy Lempert, Laura Lempert, Artist Nenad Mirkovich, along with Yvonne and Mike Donohoe, Bruce Shuman, Scott O'Keefe, Ed and Susan Patterson just to name a few... Guest extraordinaire Leslie Alexander, owner of the Houston Rockets also joined in the festive evening. Alexander being a connoisseur of fine vintage and owner of his own vineyard did not leave before purchasing 78 bottles of the premium champagnes of which all proceeds benefited The CAC!

Within a couple of hours the event raised over \$17,000 for the young victims of sexual abuse. This first annual event was a huge success and just the beginning of a yearly toast to life and children!



Scott Spencer of Houston Wine Merchants shares a little Dom with Leslie Alexander.

Hello Everyone,



It's not often we are fortunate enough to have the opportunity to come across individuals who through their character, you feel passion, strength and wisdom. You say to yourself, how blessed you are to know them and how grateful you are to know unselfish individuals are present when you need them most.

This is how I felt having the opportunity to

acknowledge Senator Jon Lindsay recently at Commissioners Court for receiving the Children's Advocacy Centers of Texas Legislative Leadership Lifetime Achievement Award for his ongoing efforts in support of children's advocacy centers across the state of Texas for the past two decades. Not only has Senator Lindsay supported the advocacy movement in Texas, but in addition, he was instrumental in the development of our Children's Assessment Center here in Houston. His support and leadership for our Public/Private Partnership was the vision our center needed to become a reality.



Senator Jon Lindsay is recognized for his leadership and support of The Children's Assessment Center.

I was so extremely proud to stand with Senator Lindsay as Judge Eckels presented him with a proclamation acknowledging his award. Judge Eckels and Senator Lindsay are two amazing individuals who have shaped history for Harris County. Our community has truly been enriched by their ripples of strength, kindness, leadership, and wisdom.

Thank you Senator Lindsay and Judge Eckels for everything the two of you have done to make a difference in the lives of abused children in our community. It will shape our history of compassion for years to come.

Take care,
Elaine Stolte, Executive Director
elaine.stolte@cac.hctx.net



John F. Kennedy once said,

"It is from numberless diverse acts of courage and belief that human history is shaped. Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends a tiny ripple of hope...daring, those ripples to build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance."

THE CAC GOES DIGITAL!

On December 14, 2006, The Children's Assessment Center hosted a reception in honor of Spindletop International. The CAC has long wanted to move from our antiquated analog video recording system, to a state-of-the-art, digital, web-based forensic interview video recording. It was Spindletop's generous donation that made our dream a reality.

Spindletop International awarded The CAC a grant of \$300,000. This afforded The CAC the ability to replace its Forensic Interviewing Division's analog taped-based recording system. The Forensic Interviewing Division is responsible for interviewing and recording the disclosures of sexually abused children. The new digital web-based video recording system was installed by Educational Management Systems. Their product was specifically customized for The CAC, and enhances collaboration among partner agencies. The new digital system streamlines access to forensic interviews by granting secure, on demand, web-based viewing to the partner agencies, which aides in the investigation and treatment of sexual abuse cases. This digital technology will continue to ensure that children do not have to relive the trauma of their sexual abuse by repeatedly telling their stories to different agencies during the investigation process. The digitally recorded interviews have dramatically improved image and sound quality and require significantly less storage space. "The new digital recording system for child forensic interviews at The CAC is top-notch! The access through the secure intranet is truly state-of-the-art, allowing partners to view live or previously recorded forensic interviews at the touch of a button," says DA Denise Oncken, Child Abuse Division.



Among those in attendance were elected officials, Spindletop Executives from the oil and gas industry, representatives from other county departments, CAC staff and friends.



The Gift That Keeps on Giving: The Value of Continuing Education



A small, terrified child—a victim of sexual abuse—sits in the witness stand. In front of her, at the defendant's table sits the father whom she both loves and fears. Off to one side sits the judge

and to the other, twelve strangers, all waiting to hear her answer the prosecutor's questions—all waiting to hear her say what her father did to her not so long ago. The small child sits frozen in her chair, unable to share the details with the room full of strange people, finally dismissed from the courtroom. One by one, family members fail to offer her the support that she needs as they make excuses for the accused. The victim's own mother assures the jury that no better husband or father could be found anywhere. Of course the accused, through sobs, denies committing the crime for which he is accused.

The good news is that CPS investigative supervisor, Gerri Feld, and

forensic interviewer, Susan Odhiambo, were able to recount the details the child gave them during the interviews they conducted with the child. Cassie Smith, the victim's therapist, was able to not only educate the jury on the dynamics and impact of child sexual abuse, she was also able to eloquently explain to the jury why the child was unable to share the details in court. The ongoing training our professionals receive, and that explanation in particular, was made possible by two generous monetary gifts, one from an anonymous donor, and the other from child psychiatrist and CAC collaborator Dr. Bruce Perry. Ms. Smith and the other clinicians at The CAC are participating in ongoing specialized training on trauma's impact on children's brains and subsequent behavior. Ms. Smith's testimony had a tremendous impact on the jury, so much so, that they found the accused guilty. Additionally, an alternate juror wrote and contacted Ms. Smith to thank her for educating the jurors and to let her know how moved she felt during the testimony. These financial gifts, designated for this particular training collaboration, not only allowed for a just decision, but also served to educate The CAC clinicians on how to provide the best treatment to this very special population of children. Heartfelt thanks to the anonymous donor, and to Dr. Perry who is currently providing our clinical team with pro bono training, and to all of you who donate your time and your treasures to help abused children.

Annual Holiday Bash for CAC Children



CAC Board Member Chester Jones and wife Charlotte join Kathy Wells with their toy delivery.

The Children's Assessment Center held its Annual Holiday Bash on December 13, 2006. Over 500 children and family members were jingle bell rock'n to the hip hop tunes of DJ Redd and the sweet sounds of holiday cheer that filled the house here at The CAC. Some special guests included: Mr. "C" himself and lovely spouse, Mrs. Claus, Sweetie the Clown, Youth Advocates, Harris County Sheriff's Department, Whole Foods, not to

mention some very special guests for their debut in Houston – The Radio City Rockettes. Thank you Stanford Group Company for sponsoring their appearance!

With the help of CAC staff, partners, exhibitors and guests, The CAC's Children's Services Coordinator, Lisa Andrews, staged a spectacular event. Dozens of elves in the form of CAC volunteers and staff helped out by donating their precious time to carry out the evening's activities. Activities included: face painting, cookie decorating, making pine cone tree ornaments, pictures with Santa and much, much more! With prizes and activities galore, the children were ecstatic to join in the activities.

Children's Services would like to thank our wonderful CAC family of volunteers, staff, partners and friends who graciously supported the holiday event. Because of you hundreds of children walked about with smiles on their tiny faces. Programs such as these are what make The Children's Assessment Center such an indispensable part of the healing process for our children.

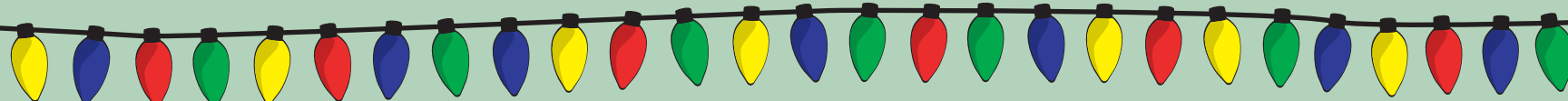


*Therapists by day...
Elves by Eve.*



Radio City Rockettes debut at CAC Holiday Bash.





*Thank you Harris County
Sherrifs and Volunteers –
Our Children Love You!!*



*CAC Children enjoy face
painting, art and crafts,
Santa's Wonderland and
much more!*





Lucinda Loya, Alicia Smith & Kimberly DeLape are just 3 Divas among many!



Fashionistas Anne Carl and Kim Moody share in the limelight.

Divas, Designers & Divots

The Houston Polo Club concluded Houston's fall polo season with "*Divas, Designers & Divots.*" This event saluted the 2006/2007 Friends Guild of The Children's Assessment Center and celebrated the Ladies of Polo.

Mickey Rosmarin and Shelley Ludwick-Taylor of Tootsies hosted this fashion savvy event on Thursday, November 8th at their Highland Village location. Guests sipped cocktails and sampled canapés served up by Jamie Zelko, executive chef of Lancaster Hotel. A percentage of Tootsies' sales and the live auction of the ladies' polo teams were donated to The CAC.

Guests in hot couture included: Jana Baird, Anne Carl, Linda Comeaux, Kimberly DeLape, Sylvia Forsythe, Jacque Garner, Jennifer Gilliam, Sharon Ley, Lucinda Loya, Kim Moody, Mary Austin Moody, Susan Plank, Alice Smith, Terri Hogan-Turner and Phyllis Williams... just to name a few! Jay Comeaux and R.O. Hutton raised the stakes for others bidding in the live auction of the ladies polo teams. Both Jay and R.O. were successful walking away with a winning bid or two!!



Jay Comeaux is pleased with his winning bid.



Shelley Ludwick-Taylor proudly displays Tootsies Team Jersey!



Susan Plank shows off in her designer baubles.

Nearly 500 Guests Attended Stanford's Private Premiere of *The Ultimate Gift*



Popular author Jim Stovall says that books can change ideas, but movies can change cultures. With the help of lead financier Stanford Financial Group, Stovall's vision became a reality. Stovall's novel turned film, "The Ultimate Gift," premiered privately in Houston through a partnership with Stanford Group Company and several area non-profits on February 1 at the River Oaks Theatre. The movie will be released nationwide in theatres in March 2007.



Virgil and June Waggoner join 500 other guests for the premier feature.

"We are so gratified by the response from our guests," said Jay Comeaux, Executive Director of Stanford Group Company and Board of Director for The Children's Assessment Center. "The movie reminded us in a powerful way that life is not about us, but about helping others—individuals, institutions, communities—the elements that makes cities like Houston great. We are extremely proud to help bring such a touching, life-altering and educational story to the screen," Comeaux concluded.

Stanford's partners on "The Ultimate Gift" movie premiere included: Houston Grantmakers Forum, Greater Houston Community Foundation, The Children's Assessment Center Foundation, American Heart Association, M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Memorial Hermann Foundation, Baylor Research Advocates for Student Scientists, St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, Theatre Under The Stars, Houston Jewish Community Foundation and Duchesne Academy of The Sacred Heart.

The full-length feature motion picture, "The Ultimate Gift," starring Drew Fuller, James Garner, Brian Dennehy, Bill Cobbs and Abigail Breslin tells the heart-warming story of a wealthy man who realizes after giving his family everything, he had actually given them nothing. With the promises of captivating the hearts of young and old alike, "The Ultimate Gift" teaches legacy building and the importance of wealth management within families.



Marlene Weyand and Jay Comeaux are pleased with the success of the premiere.

14th Annual Van Chancellor Golf Classic



*Van Chancellor
welcomed over
200 golfers on
October 26th at
Wildcat Golf Club
for a day of Aloha
Golf and Fun!*

This year's event was chaired by Roy Marsh and Lea DeMontrond and was generously sponsored by Leslie Alexander and the Houston Comets and Rockets and underwritten by the John P. McGovern Foundation. Birdie Sponsors included: Rachel & Daryl Bristow, Ernst & Young, Flair Builders & Roy Marsh. Par Sponsors included: Amegy Bank, Blue Cross Blue Shield Texas, Allison Brandt Foundation, CenterPoint Energy, CrossCap Management, Laurie & Christopher DeClaire, Charlotte & Chester Jones, Peppi Lausen, Ley-Lane Partnership No. 7 LP, Karen & Ramon Manning, Mary Austin Moody, Tellepsen Family, Thompson & Knight, LLP, Winn Consulting Group and Zinn Family...with a line up like this it's no wonder that before the golfers ever arrived at Wildcat Golf Club over \$100,000 had been raised in donations and sponsorships.

The skies darkened and the rains descended...golfers returned to the clubhouse drenched but smiling. With encouraging words from Van Chancellor and Clyde Drexler many golfers stayed to enjoy the camaraderie of their friends and colleagues while also competing for high bidder on premier silent auction items. Guest enjoyed beverages & spirits provided by Coca Cola, Silver Eagle Distributor and Patron.

Van Chancellor, Lea DeMontrond and Roy Marsh ushered on the crowd with a great live auction ranging from a Rocket's VIP package to a trip to California to meet Michael Jordan and attend his kids camp...over \$9,100 was raised in 15 minutes!

Honorary Swamp Course awards were bestowed upon golfers who literally weathered 18 holes. Cheers to Sheriff Tommy Thomas, Alan Kent, Arnold Rodriquez, Sam Harless, Charles Mehl, Mickey Patrick & Pete Trivanovich for their tenacity and love of children or is it the love of golf that ignited their drive?!



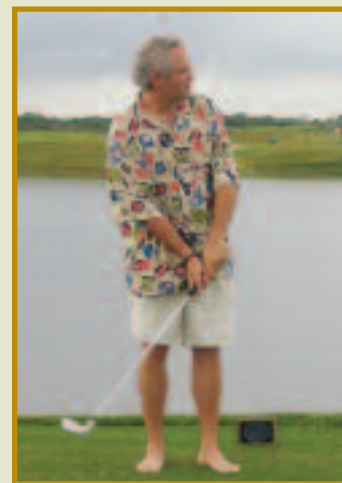
Golfers and guests were entertained by the authentic Polynesian sounds of Drums of the Pacific. Extra special thanks to Brad Bailey, owner of Sudie's Catfish & Seafood House for providing their yummy catfish dinner for the second year in a row...Brad we'll see you next year...right?! Hats off to all those who participated in a very successful event...rain and all!



Susan Williams and Elaine Stolte present Lea DeMontrond with art created by a child receiving services at The CAC.



The sounds and sights of Polynesia comes to life at Wildcat Golf Club.



*Rainwater soaked shoes...
"No problem" says Roy Marsh.*



Brad Bailey's team posing for a soggy photo.



Board Members, Yolanda Green and Ramon Manning sign up for a day of fun and fundraising for the kids.



Lady Golfers are revving to go.

The CAC Dream Team



Rain, Rain Go Away!!!

Competitive bidding among the genders gets everyone's attention.



Odell Winn showing his winning item.



Stephanie Perkins bidding...Brad Bailey Bidding...



Chief Tama says "Hang Loose" Don't Worry!



Sylvia Brauer's Bag Lady Tea Party

When most people have a birthday they gather their family and friends for cake and ice cream. When Sylvia Brauer, CAC Board Member, has a birthday party it becomes a grand social event not only to gather her family and friends in celebration but to raise money for The Children's Assessment Center.

On November 18, 2006 the 1st Annual Bag Lady Birthday Tea was held at Mirkovich Art Gallery on Post Oak Boulevard. Mrs. Brauer along with cohorts; Jeannie Cataldo, Deborah Parker and Pat Huntington amazingly put together the whole affair in a matter of eight days!

Many charming ladies graced this event while donning their finest chapeau and "bag lady" attire. Ooh's and ah's were endless with each new arriving ensemble! Donna Mirkovich of Mirkovich Art Gallery once again made the gallery an inviting showplace where fine art and music filled the room. A tea would not be complete without some delectable morsels and of course, tea. This time, Long Island Iced Teas, were the most popular tea of choice! While the Long Island Iced Tea was the fav among guests there were many other teas available for their sampling pleasure. Hors d'oeuvres and sweet creations by Bob Hannusch Catering kept guests going back for more.

A vast silent auction lined the length of the entire gallery where bidding became quite competitive! Laurie DeClaire did her best at fending off rivals for a few of the most sought after items! Jennifer Allgood and Diane Menscher rounded out as some of the top silent auction bidders. Many ladies took home wonderful items that were sure to be marvelous holiday gifts!! Guests are already excited to see what next year will bring!

This was a wonderful and fun party that raised thousands of dollars all to support the children served by The CAC. Nobody does a birthday like Sylvia! We are all definitely looking forward to celebrating her "65th" birthday again next year!



Sylvia Brauer and Bag Lady Friends really know how to put on a High Tea!



Please Take Note!

Upcoming events for 2007

- **Volunteer Training**
June 18 & 21/August 13 & 16
- **Camp for Kids**
July 1-7
- **Back To School Party**
August 22nd
- **Law Enforcement Training**
October 2007

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